

September 23, 2011

# Tug Hill Times

*Tug Hill Times* is published semimonthly by the Tug Hill Commission for its board members, staff and associates, and the local representatives of the region's communities.

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## URGENT! Need Your Input Now!



State Senator Patty Ritchie has created a **Mandate Relief Working Group**, co-chaired by Clayton Town Supervisor Justin Taylor and St. Lawrence County Legislator Kevin Acres of Madrid. This group is tasked with identifying state regulations and mandates that are ineffective, overly burdensome and costly to local taxpayers.

The working group, made up of representatives from county, village and town governments as well as school districts, will offer recommendations on mandates that New York needs to abolish or change to help local governments reduce costs to taxpayers. They will be meeting in the next few months to discuss mandate relief.

Governor Cuomo's **Mandate Relief Redesign Team Report**, as well as reports and ideas from the NY's Conference of Mayors, Association of Towns and Association of Counties, contain many mandate relief initiatives local governments can support. More about the Mandate Relief Redesign Team and the report can be found on the website at [www.governor.ny.gov/mandaterelief](http://www.governor.ny.gov/mandaterelief).

However, the Mandate Relief Redesign Team Report and other sources do not include suggestions such as:

- Support for Low Volume Roads legislation
- Amending the "New NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act" regarding elector initiated dissolutions/consolidations
- Amending state law to allow for consolidated justice courts
- Adding health care to the 2% tax cap exemption list
- Reinstating "oil and stone construction" back into CHIPS reimbursements
- Streamlining SEQR to integrate into zoning and planning processes

These are but a few ideas that have been worked on or discussed over the years. If Tug Hill communities want to be heard on this effort, we need your input soon. If you have any mandate relief ideas, please contact Philip Street at [phil@tughill.org](mailto:phil@tughill.org) or call 785-2380. We are trying to develop a set of possible recommendations to convey to Senator Ritchie's working group by October 15<sup>th</sup> so please let us know your ideas.

## Online Information About Drilling for Natural Gas

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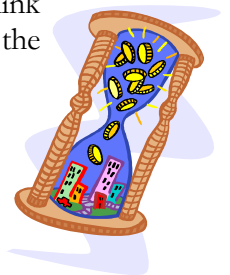
Cornell Cooperative Extension has a wealth of information here <http://cce.cornell.edu/EnergyClimateChange/NaturalGasDev/Pages/default.aspx> about drilling for natural gas. There are also webinars you can view at this site. The following sites were shared at a recent Empire State Forest Products Association meeting, where the speaker shared the impacts of Marcellus shale drilling on the forest products industry in Pennsylvania: Penn State Cooperative Extension - <http://extension.psu.edu/naturalgas>; Penn State Department of Environmental Protection - [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/marcellus\\_shale\\_advisory\\_commission/20074](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/marcellus_shale_advisory_commission/20074); Penn State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources - <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/naturalgasexploration/index.htm>; Marcellus Coalition - <http://marcelluscoalition.org/home/>



## NYS Comptroller's Office to Hold Training for Local Officials On Property Tax Cap

The State Comptroller's Office has announced training that will assist local officials in implementing the new Property Tax Cap law in a series of training sessions across the state from September 27 to October 7. Each session will provide an overview of the Property Tax Cap legislation and the Comptroller's statutory role, as well as the online form that local governments will use to report the components of their tax cap calculation to the Comptroller's Office. Space is limited and access will be granted on a first come, first served basis. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please register using the following link: <http://wwe1.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/realprop/rptcreg1.cfm>.

The closest session to the Tug Hill Region is on October 3 in Canadaigua, NY. See the link above for other locations. For more information on the sessions, click the link above, call the Comptroller's Office at (518) 473-0005 or send an e-mail to [localtraining@osc.state.ny.us](mailto:localtraining@osc.state.ny.us).



## NYS Association of Towns to Host Tax Levy Cap Webinar

*Managing In a Tax Levy Capped World, Thursday, September 29, 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM*

The NYS Association of Towns and the NYS Government Finance Officers' Association will host a webinar that will provide an overview of the new property tax levy cap from the Office of the State Comptroller and strategies for evaluating, prioritizing and managing government services more efficiently. The webinar will address:

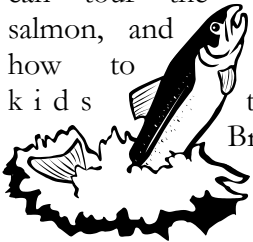
- The latest updates on guidance from the OSC on issues pertaining to local government implementation of the real property tax levy cap;
- Strategies for restructuring local government service delivery systems;
- How to evaluate the degree to which a particular local government service is legally mandated; and
- How one local government (the City of Rochester) has implemented systems and programs to provide local government services in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

Attendees will also have the chance to submit questions to a panel of presenters during the program. This program will qualify for 1.5 CPE in the area of Government Specialized Knowledge. For registration information and to view the cancellation policy for this program, please click the link: <https://secure.confertel.net/tsregister.asp?course=471412>.

The Association of Towns also has more information here [http://www.nytowns.org/web/2011/08/tax\\_cap\\_information\\_for\\_towns.aspx](http://www.nytowns.org/web/2011/08/tax_cap_information_for_towns.aspx) about the tax cap.

## Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House Saturday

The Salmon River Fish Hatchery will be open as part of National Hunting and Fishing Day this Saturday, September 24th, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM rain or shine, free admission. Salmon are in the middle of their migration and there will be many displays and activities for both adults and children, including NY Sea Grant with their "Discover Clean and Safe Boat" program, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and Brookfield Power promoting the "Wear it Oswego" program. Visitors can tour the hatchery with DEC staff, learn about fishing for Pacific salmon, and learn about rare and endangered fish. Volunteers will teach how to cast a fishing rod, tie flies, and fly cast and fly fish. For the kids there is fish identification, discovery of creatures of Beaverdam



Brook, the popular "Backyard Bass" and "Hook and Ladders" fishing programs, and the Oswego County Cooperative Extension 4-H laser shooting range. Tours of the hatchery will be given every 30 minutes starting at 10:30 AM.



## MVREDC Holds Public Participation Meeting

The Mohawk Valley Regional Economic Development Council held its first of three community outreach workshops Monday, September 19, unveiling its draft for a five-year strategic economic development plan. The public was asked to comment on the Council's draft vision statement and the results of its SWOT exercise.

About 80 people attended the public meeting in the Science and Technology Building at Mohawk Valley Community College. The Council has less than two months to put its plan together, but members already have a good idea of what the final draft will include. "It's going to involve some form of technology, agriculture, tourism and health care, all of those things that the citizens of the Mohawk Valley are engaged in," says President of SUNY IT, Wolf Yeigh, the Council's cochairman.

The Council is one of ten regions competing for state grants and tax breaks. Each region must submit a five-year strategic economic development plan that would promise sustainable growth in the area. After the plans are submitted and reviewed, the four regions with the best plans will be awarded \$40 million each. The remaining 6 regions will split \$40 million. The public can still comment on the vision statement and SWOT by attending one of the upcoming meetings (see below). You can also comment by going to the following web site: <http://nyworks.ny.gov/content/mohawk-valley>.

Amsterdam: Wednesday, September 28, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
Amsterdam High School Cafeteria  
140 Saratoga Avenue, Amsterdam, NY 12010

Cooperstown: Thursday, September 29, 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
Cooperstown Central High School Library Media Center  
39 Linden Avenue, Cooperstown, NY 13326



## NYS Library Conservation Preservation Discretionary Grants

The New York State Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials provides \$500,000 each year for preserving materials in the collections of libraries, archives, historical societies and similar agencies. The grant awards for 2012-2013 will be limited to a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$40,000. The purposes of the Conservation/Preservation program are to encourage the proper care and accessibility of research materials, to promote the use of development of guidelines and technical standards for conservation/preservation work, and to support the growth of local and cooperative activities within the context of emerging national preservation programs. The deadline for applications is December 2, 2011. Please visit <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/cp/> for more information.

## NYS Tug Hill Commission

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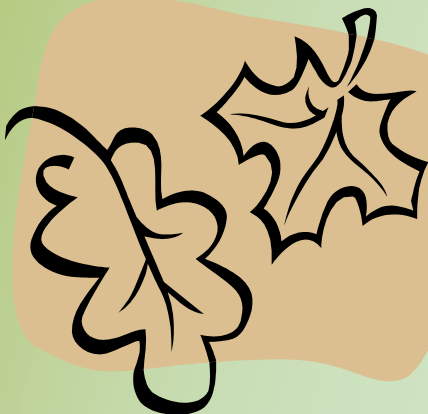
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**Thank you!**



## Commission Staff Begin Organizing the 2012 Local Government Conference

It's time again for the Commission to begin the task of planning workshops for the March 29, 2012 Local Government Conference. Our planning committee is seeking input for training topics in several areas including: Town/ Village Boards, Planning Boards, Zoning Board of Appeals, Highways, Town/ Village Clerks, Crossover Sessions, Emerging Issues, and Assessors. Because this is YOUR conference, you are encouraged to contact us via email at [tughill@tughill.org](mailto:tughill@tughill.org) or phone at 888-785-2380 with your input on training topic ideas that will help guide this process!



## Northern Oneida County Council of Governments to Hold 28th Annual Business Meeting and Dinner

On Thursday, October 27, 2011, NOCCOG will be holding its annual business meeting and dinner at The Delta Lake Inn, 8524 Fish Hatchery Road, Rome, NY 13440. The social gathering begins at 6:00 PM followed by a buffet dinner at 7:00 PM.

The cost for dinner is \$20 per person. Reservations and payment must be received by **Friday, October 21, 2011**. If you are interested in attending or have any questions, please contact Gerry Ritter, Municipal Management Consultant, at (315) 392-2260 or [grritter01@aol.com](mailto:grritter01@aol.com). You can also mail a check payable to NOCCOG, along with your name and title and the name(s) of your guest(s) to:

Mrs. Gerry Ritter  
10954 Bellingertown Road  
Forestport, NY 13338

More information about the Delta Lake Inn can be found here: <http://www.deltalakeinn.com/>

